

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



ALASKA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics
Service
P.O. Box 799
Palmer, AK 99645

September 23, 2004

AUGUST MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: August milk production totaled 1.3 million pounds, down 13 percent from last year but the same amount as July 2004. Production per cow averaged 1,100 pounds compared with 1,210 pounds per cow in August 2003. Milk cows at 1,200 head remained the same as a year ago.

Production during the first eight months of 2004 totaled 10 million pounds compared with 11.8 million pounds during the same period in 2003.

20 MAJOR STATES: Milk production in the 20 major States during August totaled 12.4 billion pounds, up 1.5 percent from August 2003. July revised production, at 12.5 billion pounds, was up 1.0 percent from July 2003. The July revision represented an increase of 36 million pounds or 0.3 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 20 major States averaged 1,595 pounds for August, 24 pounds above August 2003. The number of milk cows on farms in the 20 major States was 7.77 million head, 5,000 head less than August 2003, but 7,000 head more than July 2004.

ALASKA CROP AND WEATHER UPDATE

As of September 19th, the barley and oat crops were reported as 95% harvested statewide. The five year average for that date for barley is 64% harvested, while the five year average for oats is 35% harvested. The unusually warm, dry weather this summer hastened crop development.

Potatoes were reported as 65% harvested across the state. The five year average is 63%. The percent harvested varied by location, with the Mat-Su Valley and Kenai Peninsula reporting that 90% or more of the harvest was complete, while the Tanana Valley reported the potato harvest as 25% complete.

Second cutting hay harvest was 55% complete statewide. The percent harvested again varied by location, with the Tanana Valley reporting harvest as 75% complete, Kenai reporting 95% complete and the Mat-Su Valley reporting only 5% complete. A warm and dry summer inhibited regrowth on hay fields across the Mat-Su Valley, preventing producers, as of mid September, from taking a second cutting from most fields.

Hard frosts have been reported around the state with low temperatures dipping into the twenties in South Central and into the teens in the Tanana Valley.

ALASKA FARMERS

Mailing of the 2004 Acreage and Production Survey will occur on October 1, 2004. As always, responses will be kept confidential and your participation in this survey is strictly voluntary. The data collected is used to produce year end estimates for Alaska's major crops. PLEASE take a minute to assist in this process. We will try calling if your report isn't received by mail. Information from this survey will be published in the November Farm Reporter.

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2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE AREA PROFILE: SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA

OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS: SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA		QUANTITY
Principal operators by primary occupation:		
Farming		155
Other		96
Principal operators by sex:		
Male		190
Female		61
Average age of principal operator (years)		54.8

2002 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE AREA PROFILE: SOUTH CENTRAL ALASKA

ITEM	2002	1997	PCT CHANGE
Number of farms	251	222	13%
Land in farms (acres)	46,910	40,294	16%
Average size of farm (acres)	187	182	3%
Market Value of Production	\$27,512,000	\$15,851,000	74%
Crop sales	\$14,189,000	\$10,542,000	35%
Livestock sales	\$13,323,000	\$5,309,000	151%
Average per farm	\$109,608	\$71,400	54%
Government Payments	\$393,000	\$194,000	103%
Average per farm receiving payments	\$20,693	\$6,073	241%

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